

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00163 180046Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3334
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA, OVIP

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: OTTAWA 610

1. IN VANCOUVER SUN EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN OF FEBRUARY 17, HIGHLY RESPECTED EDITORIAL DIRECTOR BRUCE HUTCHISON WRITES THAT IN WASHINGTON A CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY BE SPEAKING "FOR A NATION THREATENED. . . BY DISMEMBERMENT" AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND CONGRESS, "IGNORANT OF CANADA, LIKE MOST AMERICANS," WILL WANT TO HEAR WHETHER THE THREAT IS SERIOUS. HUTCHISON STATES THAT OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS GAS PIPELINE, TARIFFS, ETC., THOUGH DIFFICULT, "ARE OF MINOR CONCERN."

2. HUTCHISON BELIEVES TRUDEAU IS WELL EQUIPPED TO DELIVER "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SPEECHES DELIVERED BY ANY CANADIAN STATESMAN," BUT CAUTIONS THAT THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF SUCH A SENSITIVE SUBJECT BY TRUDEAU CAN ONLY BE IN GENERALITIES "LEST HE BE MISUNDERSTOOD AT HOME AND GIVE WEAPONS OF ARGUMENT TO THE QUEBEC SEPARATISTS WHOSE UNDISGUISED PURPOSE IS TO DESTROY HIM, WITH THE NATION."

3. WHILE HUTCHISON REALIZES PM'S SPEECH WILL BE REGARDED BY AMERICANS AS A REPLY TO PREMIER LEVESQUE, "WHAT REALLY MATTERS. . . IS THE PRIVATE TALK" BETWEEN TRUDEAU AND CARTER. IN THIS TALK,

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HUTCHISON BELIEVES THAT TRUDEAU MUST IN CANDOR SAY THAT CANADA IS DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. "FOR ITS SAFETY IN A PERILOUS TIME, FOR ITS LARGEST FOREIGN MARKET AND FOR COUNTLESS BILLIONS OF BORROWED MONEY. . .," BUT THAT ANY SURE ANSWER ON THE QUESTION OF CANADA'S SURVIVAL CAN ONLY COME FROM THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. ON THIS POINT, TRUDEAU CAN ONLY HONESTLY SAY THAT THE CANADIAN PEOPLE "WILL NOT DESTROY THE WORK OF SOME THREE CENTURIES

UNLESS THEY HAVE GONE CRAZY." HUTCHISON CONCLUDES THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER WILL MAKE A CORRECT JUDGMENT IF HE REALIZES THAT THE
"DEATH WISH" AFFLICTS NO MORE THAN "A TINY LUNATIC FRINGE
NORTH OF THE BORDER."

4. CLIPPING BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND EUR/CAN.

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